



**The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009**

## **Innovative Energy Efficiency Financing Approaches**

### ***Speakers***

#### **U.S. Department of Energy**

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# Municipal Energy Financing

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## Energy Efficiency Conundrums

- How will we create jobs and promote both energy efficiency and renewable energy long after American Recovery and Reinvestment Act money is gone?
- Existing Energy Efficiency Programs:
  - Limited Applicability to Households Most in Need
  - Low Participation Rates
  - Limited Support for Deep Energy Retrofits
  - Programs Do Not Always Cover Their Costs
  - Potential Issues with On-bill Financing Programs



## What is Municipal Energy Financing?

- Definition: Property Owners (commercial, industrial, residential) borrow money to finance energy retrofits and repay over time through line item on property tax bill
  - Borrow money either via municipal bond or from financiers
  - Energy Retrofits = energy efficiency measures (EE) and renewable energy (RE)
- Impact: Property tax lien oriented financing dramatically improves economics of energy retrofits
  - Loan is secured by a lien on the property that takes precedence over any mortgage claims to the property
- Solves key problems of EE financing right now:
  - Credit (i.e. Property Owner (PO) credit is poor)
    - Municipal energy financing: loan linked to property ownership
  - Collateral (i.e. financier has no recourse in the event of nonpayment as EE retrofits are considered fixtures)
    - Municipal energy financing: EE/RE payments are senior to mortgage; collateral is easier to grasp using property taxes
    - EE harder than solar; EE is considered a fixture, solar is considered personal property. In the event of non-payment, solar panels can be removed



## Steps

1. Identify Team of Champions – City Manager, legal counsel, finance staffer, sustainability program staff people
2. Decide who will manage administrative and financial aspects of program - do you need additional software, administrative, financial partners?
3. Create structure that treats EE/RE as senior “property tax lien” repaid by property owner through time, either:
  - Municipalities pass ordinances that enable citizens to add a line item to their property tax bill for EE/RE loans (i.e. Annapolis)
  - Special tax district (i.e. AB 811 – assessment district or Mello Roos)
4. Launch Program - Education and Outreach
  - PO’s “opt-in” to add line item to property tax bill for EE/RE loan
  - PO’s apply for funds to install hyper energy efficiency measures and renewable energy production (e.g. solar)



## Use EECBG Money to Jump Start a Program – and Get Economies of Scale

EECBG financing can be used:

- For Software Development – middle/back office
- To Create and Fund Aggregator
- For Pilot Program
- To Create Legislation and Contracts Between Entities
- To Buy Down Interest Rates

Create Economies of Scale!

- Working at the county level or state level allows municipalities to pool resources and minimize transaction costs

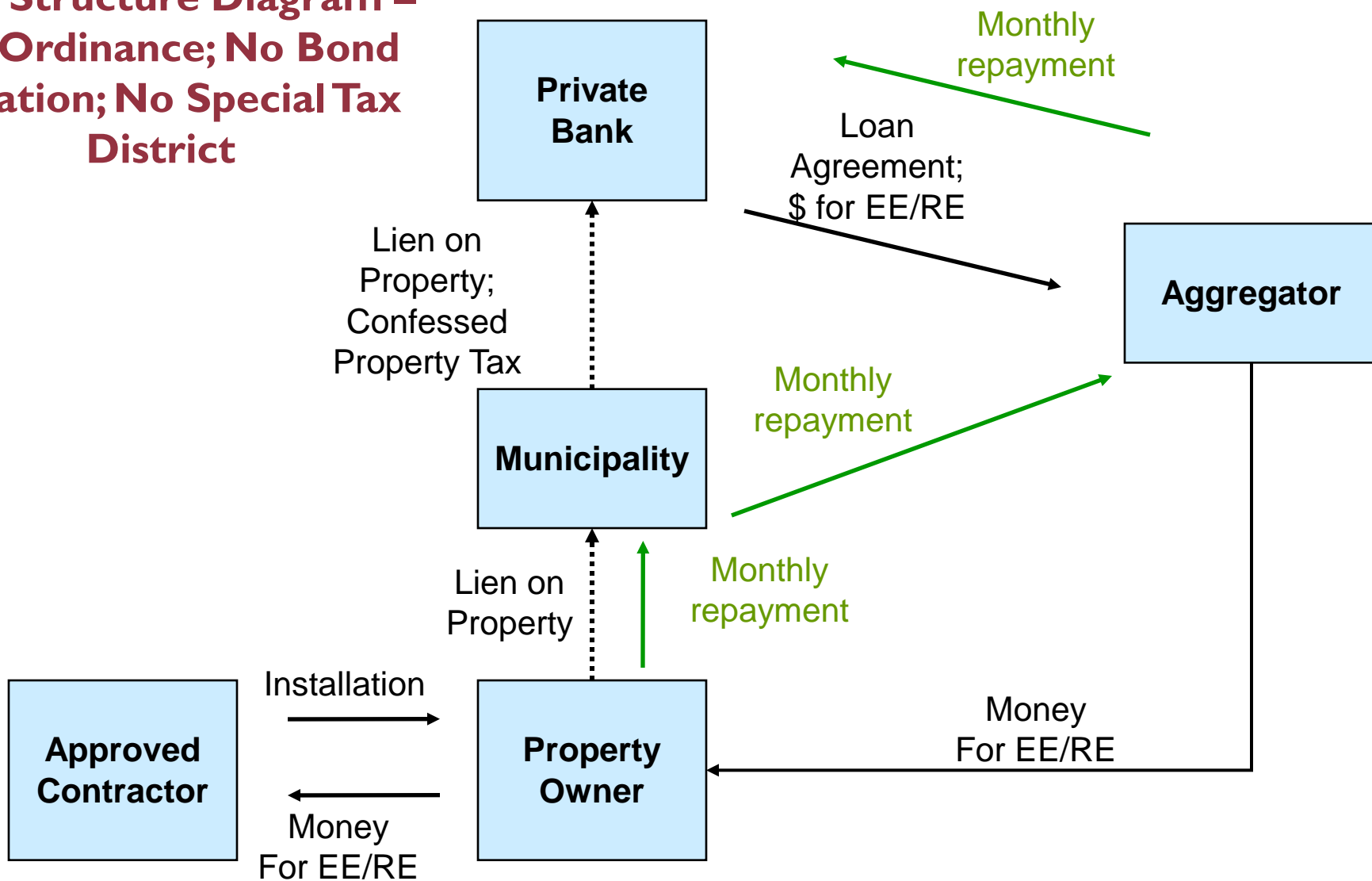


## Where does potential aggregator fit in?

- Aggregates financiers, municipalities, property owners, and contractors who can all make or save money by financing and installing EE/RE
- Acts as a trusted agent for municipalities to quickly implement this structure
- Creates software, administration, and contracts
- Verifies contractors
- Implements program so that municipalities can be provided with full “program in a box” offer



## Deal Structure Diagram – Via Ordinance; No Bond Creation; No Special Tax District







## Benefits

### Property Owner

- Substantially reduced up front costs for energy retrofits
- Improved return on investment/positive cash flow on retrofits (annual savings > cost)

### Municipality

- No credit or general obligation risk: Obligation is liability of PO
- Job creation
- Greenhouse gas reductions/energy independence
- Opt in: Only those real estate owners who opt in pay for it

### Lender

- Super senior loan with low risk of capital impairment
  - Property tax liens are senior to first mortgage debt
  - Historical loss rates on property tax liens are low
    - 97% of property taxes are current; Property tax losses are less than 1%

# Clean Energy Municipal Financing Bills (enacted)

State	Description
California: AB 811	Municipal financing for cities (& California – SB 279)
Colorado – HB 08-1350	Finances EE & RE improvements through assessments on real property
Maryland – HB 1567 (awaiting Governor signature)	Authorizing political subdivisions to create a Clean Energy Loan Program
New Mexico – HB 572	Allows counties to establish special assessment districts for solar-energy improvements
Virginia – SB 1212	Financing clean energy programs through the use of real property assessments
Kammen – <a href="http://rael.berkeley.edu">http://rael.berkeley.edu</a>	

# Clean Energy Municipal Financing Bills

## (in committee)

State	Description
<b>Federal</b> –\$ 10 billion National Home Energy Savings Revolving Fund Act – HR 1573 (Van Hollen, MD)	In House Energy and Commerce Committee
New York – A05998	Finances EE & RE on Long Island (Local committee)
Oregon – HB 2181 (EE & RE Local Improvements Districts)	In committee: Sustainability and Economic Development
Texas - HB 1391 (Clean energy bond authority)	In committee: Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Subcommittee
Vermont – H.161 (Debt financing for EE & RE)	In committee – Commerce and Economic Development
Active consultations in committees	Massachusetts , Nevada, New Jersey , Washington
Kammen – <a href="http://rael.berkeley.edu">http://rael.berkeley.edu</a>	



## Statistics on Existing Programs

	Berkeley, CA -FIRST	Annapolis EZ	Sonoma County	Boulder, CO – ClimateSmart Loan Program	Palm Desert, CA - Energy Independence Program	Long Island Green Homes Program, Babylon, NY
<b>Program Launch Date</b>	Nov-08	Nov-08	Apr-09	Apr-09	Oct-08	Aug-08
<b>Current Status</b>	38 projects financed; only \$1.5 MM avail	Pilot - working on contracts	Approved - for energy and water improvements	517 projects committed	End of Phase 2; 206 applications; maxed out financing	108 projects in queue; \$1.6 MM still available
<b>eligible (non- rental) units</b>	21436	8647	111896	81180	23430	59200
<b>participation rate</b>	0.177%			0.637%	0.879%	0.182%
<b>Funding source</b>	Municipal revenue bonds; microbonds	local banks	County Treasury Notes at 5% above UST	Tax-exempt + private activity bond repaid through special fee on HH property tax bills	Phase 1: City's General Fund (\$2.5 million); Phase 2: \$5 MM in Bond Issuance	municipal solid waste revolving fund
<b>\$ committed to program</b>	\$1.5 MM pilot Phase II will be larger (75 residential, 25 commercial)	\$1.5 MM	\$5 MM	approved to sell up to \$40 MM bonds, including \$14 MM in Tax Exempt bonds	\$7.5 MM	\$2 MM from solid waste reserve fund acts as revolving fund; \$.5M for solar
<b>interest rate</b>	7.75%	5.50%	8.50%	6.75%	7%	3%
<b>term</b>	20 yrs	20 yrs	10-20 yrs (if over \$5000), 5 yrs if < \$5000	15-20 years	up to 20 years	based on matching savings with payments
<b>Admin Fee paid by PO</b>	1-2% total loan value	\$250	5%	\$75	\$200	3% interest rate covers admin costs
<b>Other expenses</b>			\$150 onsite inspection fee; title check of \$65-\$215	1-2% total loan value for loan processing fee	\$360 title insurance policy	\$250 audit cost



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<b>How Quickly \$ is committed</b>	received all avail applications in first day - committed 6 mo later	TBD	TBD		\$2.5 MM committed in 3 weeks; \$5 MM of Phase II committed in 3 weeks	\$400K in queue for retrofit in 5 months (\$1.6 MM still avail)
<b>% to residential property owners</b>	100%	100%	avail to res, commercial & industrial	70.0%	98.5%	100%
<b>Loan Amt</b>	max \$37,500	TBD	\$2500 up to \$500 K ( requires approval after \$60 K)	min \$3000; \$15000 max for T-E bonds, \$50000 max or 20% property value for non T-E bonds	\$5000 or greater	up to \$12000
<b>Enabling Legislation</b>	CA – AB811+City Council Program approval	City Resolution and Ordinance	CA – AB811+City Council Program approval;	CO House Bill 08- 1350 + City Ballot Issue 1A: Nov 08	CA – AB811 + City Council Program approval	City Council Resolution Approval – Aug. 08 to expand Solid Waste Code
<b>Owner Repayment Mechanism</b>	Property Taxes; Special Tax	Loan through community bank		Property Tax Assessment	Property Tax Assessment	assessment fee for removing solid waste
<b>Administration Provided by</b>	1.25 FTE from City Planning Dept; \$227 K total in admin	Chamber of Commerce Foundation		1 FTE Finance Division	1.5 FTE - Office of Energy Mgmt; have \$90 K budget	3 FTE from City